

BEHAVIOUR OF REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAMS WITH OPENING
ADDED WITH KENAF FIBER

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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

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ABSTRAK

Kajian ini membentangkan tentang penemuan program penyelidikan eksperimen yang dilakukan untuk meningkatkan tingkah laku struktur konkrit bertetulang gentian bertetulang (FRC) serat semulajadi dengan membuat pembukaan di hujung struktur konkrit yang dibuat dengan menggunakan serat kenaf. Perkadaran campuran yang sesuai dan prosedur pencampuran dikira untuk menghasilkan balok dengan pecahan jumlah kenaf, V_f dari 0%, 1% dan 2%. Kekuatan mampatan, kekuatan lenturan spesimen konkrit bertetulang serat kenaf (KFRC) dibentangkan dan dibandingkan dengan tingkah laku spesimen kawalan konkrit biasa. Keputusan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa kelakuan KFRC dan ujian pemampatan kedua-duanya berkurangan dengan peningkatan pecahan pecahan.

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the findings of an experimental research program that was conducted to improve the structural behaviour of natural fiber reinforced concrete (FRC) beam with opening at end which is made using kenaf fiber. Appropriate mixture proportions and mixing procedures are calculated to produce beam with kenaf volume fractions, V_f of 0%, 1% and 2%. The compressive strength, flexural strength of kenaf fiber reinforced concrete (KFRC) specimens are presented and compared to the behaviour of plain concrete control specimens. The experimental results indicate that the behaviour of KFRC and compression test were both decreasing with increasing volume of fraction.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

KFRC	Kenaf Fibre Reinforced Concrete
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Natural fiber is widely used in the construction field as the strengthening material. There are few types of fiber can be used as the composites materials in concrete mixing. Few study of kenaf fibre has proven that kenaf fibre is capable to enhance the load carrying capacity (Ezekiel Babatunde et al., 2015),(Azrizal, 2015),(Mohsin et al., 2016). This study added kenaf fiber in the mixture to study the behaviour of beam with opening at end. It is proved that kenaf fiber exhibits higher strength values in terms of tensile and flexural properties, as compared to other natural fibers (Nishino et al., 2003). Furthermore, a finding suggest that fibres also have the potential to serve as part of shear reinforcement in reinforced concrete structures and is allowed for a reduction of the shear reinforcement while maintaining the ductility ratio, load-carrying capacity as well as controlling the crack propagation (Mohsin, 2012).

Opening in beams has become necessity in construction to provide lines and facilitates passage for electrical lines, water pipes, telecommunication cables with the purpose of a more systematic layout (Mondal, 2011). The shape and size can be various depends on its requirement of using and the behaviour of the beam. Previously, Manoharan and Tripathi (2017) has studied the analysis of circular opening and it is concluded that as the depth of opening increases, stress concentrations increases at the opening boundaries. The opening provided is of circular shape was very effective, it shows less stress concentrations at the web openings and will be easy to fabricate. However, in a research by (Osman et al., 2017), he reported that shear behaviour of reinforced concrete (RC) beams with circular web openings without additional shear reinforcement beam start to fail mainly by brittle shear failure in which the diagonal shear cracks that formed at the top and bottom chords of the beams led to concrete shear failure.

In some cases, the height of a building floor is limited and has sufficient space to fit all the essential services because of the size of the beam. This design has been practically used since many years before however the presence of the opening beams, it is believed that it also leads to some problem in terms of cracking, excessive bending and decreasing in strength. In 2013, Alsaeq (2013) made a research on how web openings would impact the effective width of beams. It is concluded that web openings influence the effective width of composite beams. Structural analysis of a failures RC beam with openings in a building under construction is conducted and the analysis implies that defectively constructed openings have an impact on the behaviour of load-bearing elements (Zdanowicz and Wojdak, 2013).



Figure 1.1 Multiple opening in a beam



Figure 1.2 Cracking at the bottom of the beam near the opening.

(Source: Łukasz Zdanowicz, 2013)

There are failures of opening beams happened in the past cases for example brittle fracture caused from insufficient reinforcement, fragile fracture caused by corner cracking and crisp failure from insufficient strength of concrete. The beam most likely to fail at the location of the opening and the moment-shear interaction of the tested steel reinforced concrete beams with opening did not agree to the interaction proposed for the structural steel with opening (Chen, Li and Kuo, 2008). However, in study of analysis of steel beams with circular opening reported that analytical results for beams with circular opening show that there is no much variation in the deflection values when compared with solid beam results for all the cases considered (Manoharan et al., 2017).

1.2 Problem Statement

Beam with opening is essential to the construction these days to some of relevant purposes. However, the effect of making opening in beam is unpredictable. The hollow part of the beam may affect the changes in strength and later can cause to structural failure. Therefore, to study the strength, mix design is design by adding with different percentage of kenaf fiber.

The location of the beams also has to be taken into consideration where the failure might happen due to loading transferred. The presence of an opening itself will reduced the load carrying capacity and the stiffness of the beam. One opening at an end of the beam and compare with the one without the opening.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The strength of the beam with opening will be improved by using kenaf fiber as the additional reinforcement, the study will include few related objectives that will help in achieving the aims or the main purpose of the investigation are as below;

- i. To improve performance of RC beam contains of different percentage of kenaf fiber.
- ii. To study the behaviour of three RC beam with opening and RC beam without opening as the control beam.

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